

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A hydroforming apparatus for concurrently performing two or more hydroforming operations includes a frame that is sized to support hydroforming dies in a stacked relationship. Each of the dies includes a pair of cooperating die sections 5 having respective recesses that define a die cavity. Guide pins and actuating cylinders, attached to platens on which the die section are supported, move in coordination with a ram and assist in moving die sections that are distant from the ram. When the die cavities are opened, hollow tubular blanks are inserted between the spaced apart die sections of the first and second die. Next, the ram and the support mechanism move 10 such that the pairs of cooperating die sections of the first and second dies engage one another. End feed cylinders are then moved laterally into engagement with the end the tubular blanks to facilitate the filling thereof with a hydroforming fluid. The pressure of the fluid within the tubular blanks is then increased to expand such a magnitude that the tubular blanks are expanded outwardly into conformance with the respective die 15 cavities. Thus, the hydroforming apparatus is capable of performing two or more hydroforming operations concurrently to decrease the overall amount of operation cycle time and to increase overall productivity.